Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Text

PAGE 01 MADRID 07647 270702Z

21
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /119 W
---------- 097923
P R 261756Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7656
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS
USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7647

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PGOV ELAB SP
SUBJECT: POST-ASSASSINATION POLITICAL SITUATION

REF: MADRID 7614

1. BEGIN SUMMARY - DOMINANT SPANISH REACTION TO CARRERO BLANCO'S ASSASSINATION HAS BEEN RUDE AWAKENING THAT VIOLENCE CAN STRIKE SPAIN AT HIGH LEVEL DESPITE SECURITY AND STABILITY WHICH FRANCO GOVERNMENTS HAVE PRIDED THEMSELVES IN MAINTAINING FOR SO LONG. HOWEVER, PEOPLE QUICKLY RETURNED TO PRE-CHRISTMAS NORMALCY FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION. GOS SET EXAMPLE BY HOLDING REGULARLY SCHEDULED COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING, SWEARING IN THREE NEW MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF REALM, AND TRYING CARABANCHEL TEN AS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED. POLITICAL SPOKESMEN AND COMMENTATORS HAVE STRESSED MATURITY OF GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE IN AVOIDING DISORDER AND POLITICAL CRISIS AND PRO-
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 07647 270702Z

CEEDING IN IMPLEMENTATION OF FUNDAMENTAL LAWS. GOS EVIDENTLY SEEKING FOSTER IMAGE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE AND RESILIENCE IN TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES. COUNCIL OF REALM WILL REPORTEDLY MEET JANUARY 27 TO PICK THREE CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT. GOS HAS ANNOUNCED THAT SIX BASQUES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED, BUT NOT

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

APPREHENDED, AS CARRERO BLANCO'S ASSASSINS. THEY ARE REPORTEDLY SEEKING REFUGE IN FRANCE. PRESENCE OF VICE PRESIDENT FORD AT FUNERAL PROMPTED WIDESPREAD FAVORABLE COMMENT. END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY WEEKEND, SPANIARDS' ATTENTION FOCUSED ON ASSESSMENT OF CONSEQUENCES OF CARRERO BLANCO'S ASSASSINATION AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRESIDENT. DRAMATIC PRE-CHRISTMAS EVENTS DID NOT PREVENT SPANIARDS FROM CELEBRATING HOLIDAY IN CUSTOMARY FASHION, AND GOVERNMENT HAS ACTED IN FASHION TO ENCOURAGE BELIEF THAT SOUNDNESS OF POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS COULD NOT BE UPSET BY SUDDEN DEATH OF ONE MAN.

3. CARRERO BLANCO WAS NOT A POPULAR OR CHARISMATIC FIGURE AND HIS PASSING DID NOT EVOKE ANY MARKED EMOTIONAL REACTION AMONG POPULACE. HOWEVER, OFFICIALS AND MAN-IN-THE-STREET FELT RUDE AWAKENING THAT VIOLENCE COULD STRIKE AT SO HIGH A LEVEL DESPITE THE STABILITY AND SECURITY WHICH FRANCO GOVERNMENTS HAD PRIDED THEMSELVES IN MAINTAINING. HORROR GENERATED BY WHAT MANY CONSIDERED AS COWARDLY BOMBING UNDERMINED ASSUMPTION OF ORDER TO WHICH GENERATION OF SPANIARDS HAD BECOME ACCUSTOMED. AT SAME TIME, ISOLATED CHARACTER OF ASSASSINATION LEFT PEOPLE WITH FEELING THAT IT WAS SOME SORT OF ABERRATION. THERE WERE SOME EMOTIONAL OUTCRIES FOR VENGEANCE, BUT DOMINANT NOTE WAS STRUCK IN PLEAS FROM OFFICIALS AND PRESS FOR MAINTENANCE OF CALM AND CONTINUITY WITH SYSTEM SET IN MOTION BY FRANCO.

4. ALTHOUGH GOS PRESCRIBED THREE DAYS OF MOURNING, PRE-CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WAS NOT INHIBITED AND PEOPLE ACTED AS IF IT WAS BUSINESS AS USUAL. GOVERNMENT ITSELF SET TONE BY HOLDING REGULAR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING DECEMBER 21 (ALBEIT ONLY TO MOURN CARRERO BLANCO'S DEATH), SWEARING IN THREE NEW MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OF THE REALM DECEMBER 22, AND HOLDING TRIAL OF CARABANCHEL TEN DECEMBER 20-22. IF FRANCO HAD SOME QUALMS ABOUT MAKING PUBLIC APPEARANCE DECEMBER 21 CONFIDENTIAL

(REFTEL), THESE WERE APPARENTLY OVERCOME BY FOLLOWING DAY WHEN HE ATTENDED A MEMORIAL MASS FOR CARRERO. ALTHOUGH POLICE LEAVES WERE STILL CANCELLED, ARMY TROOPS ALERT, ORDERED ON DAY OF ASSASSINATION, WAS RESCINDED. GOS, THEREFORE, WAS CARRYING OUT WATCHWORD OF SERENITY COINED BY ACTING PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ MIRANDA ON NIGHT OF ASSASSINATION IN DRAMATIC TV MESSAGE.

5. POLITICAL SPOKESMEN AND NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS HAVE PRAISED NATION'S POLITICAL MATURITY IN AVOIDING POLITICAL CRISIS BY OBSERVANCE OF PRESCRIPTIONS LAID DOWN IN FUNDAMENTAL LAWS WITH RESPECT TO SUCCESSION. AUTOMATICITY OF ASSUMPTION OF PRESIDENCY BY VICE PRESIDENT SEEN AS ANOTHER INSTANCE OF GRADUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE LAWS, FOLLOWING THAT OF CARRERO

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

BLANCO'S DESIGNATION AS PRESIDENT IN JUNE 1973. GIVING IMPRESSION OF ACTING IN SUPREMELY CONFIDENT MANNER TO DEMONSTRATE ITS MASTERY OF SITUATION, GOS THUS FAR SEEMS TO BE AVOIDING MOVES WHICH MIGHT HEIGHTEN POPULAR FEELINGS OR ALIENATE BROAD SECTORS OF OPINION, THOUGH OPPOSITION CIRCLES REMAIN APPREHENSIVE THAT GOVERNMENTAL CRACKDOWN WILL FOLLOW.

6. ACCORDING EXISTING LEGISLATION COUNCIL OF REALM HAS SIX DAYS FROM DEATH CARRERO, IN WHICH TO SUBMIT LIST OF THREE CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT, (NOT 10 DAYS AS INDICATED REFTEL) WHILE NEW PRESIDENT MUST BE DESIGNATED WITHIN TEN DAYS ACCORDING TO ORGANIC LAW (NOT CLEAR, HOWEVER WHETHER THESE WORKING DAYS). ACCORDING ONE REPORT, COUNCIL OF REALM SCHEDULED MEET DEC 27 BUT THIS HAS NOT YET BEEN CONFIRMED.

7. IN ADDITION TO POSSIBILITIES MENTIONED REFTEL, THERE IS CURRENT SPECULATION AROUND NAMES OF EX-MINISTER OF NAVY, ADMIRAL NIETO, AND EX-MINISTER OF ARMY, GENERAL CASTANON, BOTH OF WHOM ARE CLOSE TO FRANCO AND AROUND ALTERNATIVE OF FRANCO'S ASSUMING POSITION OF PRESIDENT HIMSELF FOR INDEFINITE PERIOD OR FOR SPECIFIC PERIOD, DURING WHICH HE WOULD GIVE MORE DELIBERATE THOUGHT TO SELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT.

8. MEANWHILE, GOS HAS ANNOUNCED IDENTITY OF SIX BASQUES AS RESPONSIBLE ON BASIS OF "INCONTROVERTIBLE EVIDENCE," FOR CARRERO BLANCO'S ASSASSINATION. OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED DECEMBER 22 BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SECURITY STATED THAT POLICE CONFIDENTIAL

WERE TRYING TO APPREHEND THEM "BEFORE THEY COULD SUCCEED IN PASSING THE FRONTIER IN ORDER TO TAKE REFUGE IN THEIR BASES IN FRANCE." CELERITY OF IDENTIFICATION OF ASSASSINS HAS PROMPTED SOME SOURCES TO QUESTION AUTHENTICITY OF GOS IDENTIFICATION, SUGGESTING THAT AUTHORITIES, UNDER PRESSURE TO SHOW PROGRESS IN INVESTIGATION, MIGHT HAVE PULLED OUT FILES OF PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED BASQUE EXTREMISTS. STATEMENT'S ALLEGATION ABOUT EXISTENCE OF BASQUE BASE OF OPERATIONS IN FRANCE AGAINST GOS MIGHT ALSO ENTRAIN COMPLICATIONS IN FRENCH-SPANISH RELATIONS.

9. PRESENCE OF VICE PRESIDENT FORD AT CARRERO BLANCO'S FUNERAL HAS PROMPTED WIDE-RANGING POSITIVE COMMENT. SPANISH OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS OF GOS' GRATIFICATION WITH VIP'S ATTENDANCE. ALL NEWSPAPERS GAVE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINE TREATMENT TO HIS PRESENCE, ALONG WITH THAT OF PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT CAETANO, WHILE RELEGATING PRESENCE OF OTHER EUROPEAN OFFICIALS TO SECONDARY LEVEL.

10. LOCAL PRESS DECEMBER 26 REPORTED THAT THREE MEMBERS OF ETA, AMONG WHOM WAS ONE OF MEN INCULPATED BY GOS, WERE INTERVIEWED BY CORRESPONDENTS FROM "LE MONDE", "FIGARO", AND "SUD-OUEST", PRESUMABLY AT CLANDESTINE SITE IN FRANCE.

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

THIS REPORT IF CONFIRMED, WOULD FURTHER EXACERBATE
FRENCH-SPANISH RELATIONS.
RIVERO

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, BOMBING, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973MADRID07647
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731256/abqcefwt.tel
Line Count: 168
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: MADRID 7614
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUL 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <28-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POST-ASSASSINATION POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, SP
To: STATE INFO PARIS
LISBON
BONN
ROME
LONDON
NATO
USEC BRUSSELS

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

USCINCEUR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005